

**GLASS
=CUP=
PLATES**

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Glass Cup Plates

A Guide to Collectors

by

Charles Burns



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THE aim and intention of this work is to furnish those who are interested in the subject with a guide to collecting glass cup plates. The collecting of cup plates always was an alluring subject, and is now difficult, as they are no longer used for the purpose for which they were made.

The practice which we condemn as bad etiquette today was in good repute among our ancestors, as these cup plates abundantly testify. Great Grandma could not bear to have the linen stained or the mahogany marred, so when tea was poured into the saucer to cool the cup was neatly placed in the little plate provided for it.

The collectors of Old Blue China were delighted when they discovered any early American historical subjects on china cup plates, which were mostly made in Staffordshire, England, for the American market, and some of them were worth their weight in gold. I have been collecting antique china and glass for many years and had a nice lot of historical cup plates in dark blue china.

One day, while on a quest for antiques in an old house in South Philadelphia, in looking through a lot of glassware in an old corner cupboard, I found a stack of small glass dishes.

The old gentleman to whom they belonged thought they were butter plates; all he could remember about them was that they belonged to his wife's mother. As they had stood on that shelf for many years they were almost black with the accumulation of dust; so took them to the kitchen sink and found that they had historical designs impressed in them and proved to be glass cup plates; so purchased them and laid them aside.

Later while rummaging in an old garret I found some more, of a different design; so decided to make a collection of them. For a long time I had no competition. All the dealers saved them for me at my own appraisalment, but at present there are many collectors of them. I have been

asked so many times how many varieties there are, so decided to publish this book.

There are over forty different historical designs known, and still others being found; many are in colors; some in amber, blue, green and opalescent, and a large variety of conventionals, showing wonderful skill on the part of the engravers. Among them are some very interesting specimens, such as the anchor, harp, lyre, butterfly, valentine and several different impressions of the thirteen hearts, representing the thirteen States.

The late Dr. Edwin Atlee Barber in writing on American glass says that glass cup plates were probably made in England, but we have found since that these cup plates were made by the Boston and Sandwich Company, Sandwich, Massachusetts.

The manufacture of glass by means of metal molds was practiced to some extent in England and America as early as 1834. The idea of pressing the molten glass into the required shape by means of a metal core or plunger was suggested by a carpenter in Sandwich, Massachusetts, and taken up by the New England Glass Company with successful results. They sent a specimen of this pressed glass to Paris for the Exposition and received first prize on it.

The clear and brilliant impressions are the earliest and best specimens. When the glass is very dull and has a greasy appearance they come from a very old or a remade mould.

In illustrating these plates have made impressions in plaster of paris to bring out the details, as it is almost impossible to photograph glass and get the details. Most of these plates have a scallop on the outer edge, which can be seen in figure No. 1. The size of these plates vary from three to three and three-quarter inches. All numbers that have an A following same are of the same design as preceding one with same number, but of a slight variation.

The author desires to record his thanks to Mr. A. H. Scott, Rose Valley, Pennsylvania, and Mr. Overholtzer, Norristown, Pennsylvania, for the courtesy of letting him take impressions of some of the specimens he disposed of to them.

FIGURE 1
CLERMONT, FULTON STEAMBOAT

As early as 1793 Fulton began his attention to the subject of steam navigation.

In 1803 he launched a steamboat on the Seine, Paris, which immediately sank, owing to faulty construction of the frame. A new boat was built with the old machinery, which made a successful trip on the Seine August 9th, 1803, but attained no great speed.

Returning to the United States, Fulton resumed his experiments there and finally the Clermont steamed up the Hudson from New York to Albany, August 11th, 1807, making the voyage of one hundred and fifty miles in thirty-two hours.

This is a rare plate, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 2
MAJOR SAMUEL RINGOLD

The Mexican war hero, who was killed at the battle of Palo Alto.

Very rare plate, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 3
BEFORE AND AFTER MARRIAGE

A satire on marriage.

Rare plate, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 4
FRIGATE CONSTITUTION
or
OLD IRON SIDES

The old reliable carried forty-four guns, commanded by Captain Isaac Hull in the War of 1812.

Rare plate, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 5
GEORGE WASHINGTON

The father of our country.

Born in Westmoreland Co., Virginia, February 22d, 1732; died December 14th, 1799.

Rarest plate known, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

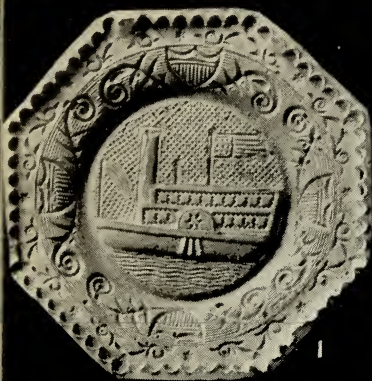


FIGURE 6
FORT PITT EAGLE

To commemorate the fall of Fort Duquesne, 1758.

On the advance of Washington and his Virginians, the garrison set fire to the fort and fled. The flames were extinguished and the name of the fortress was changed to Fort Pitt.

Very rare, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

FIGURE 7
SMALL EAGLE
Scarce, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 8
LARGE EAGLE
Scarce, 3 inches.

FIGURE 9
LARGE EAGLE, 1831

Commemorating the boundary line between United States and Canada.

Not rare, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 10
SMALL EAGLE
Common, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 11
LARGE EAGLE, SMALL PLATE
Scarce, 3 inches

FIGURE 12
LARGE EAGLE
 $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 13 AND 13-A
LARGE EAGLE

There are two varieties of this one. The bead on the outer border is a trifle closer on one than on the other.

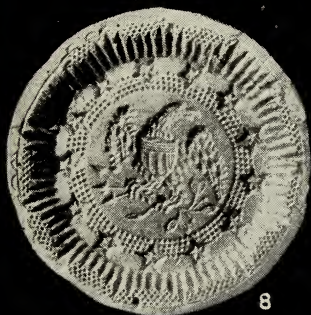


FIGURE 14
LARGE EAGLE
Rare, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

FIGURE 15
BEE HIVE

This represents industry and used during the campaign of 1840.

Scarce, 3 inches.

FIGURE 16
LOG CABIN

Log Cabin was a paper published under the auspices of the Whig State Committee of New York. Horace Greeley was Editor of same. The popular election passed off in November, 1840, amid the vocal din of Whig Log Cabin songs, interlined with something about hard cider and Harrison's latch string always hanging outside of the door.

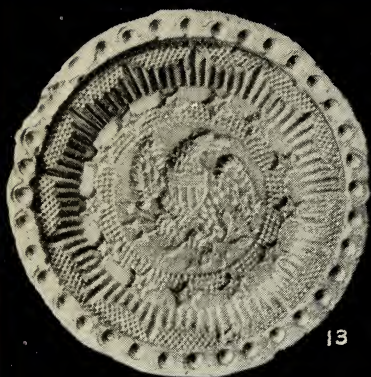
$3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

FIGURE 17
HOUND
Rare, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

FIGURE 18
BEE HIVE
Rare, 3 inches.

FIGURE 19
HENRY CLAY
Facing right.
Very rare, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 20
HENRY CLAY
Facing left.
Plentiful, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.



13



16



14



17



15



18

FIGURE 21
MAJOR RINGOLD

Rare, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The only difference in this Ringold is that the print is smaller.

FIGURE 22
HENRY CLAY

No printing.

Rare, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 23
HENRY CLAY

Five Stars.

Henry Clay was born in Virginia, near Richmond, April 12, 1777.

He was elected to the National Senate with the remarkable record of thirteen years as Speaker of the House.

He died on June 29th, 1852, in Washington, D. C.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 24
W. H. HARRISON

Born at Berkely, Virginia, February 9th, 1773.

Died at Washington, D. C., April 4th, 1841.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 24-A

There are two varieties.

Same as 24.

President and date omitted.

FIGURE 25
SHIP CHANCELLOR LIVINGSTON

Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State of New York, 1777 to 1801.

He was one of the committee of five in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

Later on in life he associated with Robert Fulton in the steamboat enterprises.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 26
SHIP CHANCELLOR LIVINGSTON

Same as above, but difference in the ropes.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.



19



22



20



23



21



24

FIGURE 27

CADMUS

The ship which brought Lafayette to this country as a guest in 1824.

It was fitted up by a patriotic American merchant, who placed it at the General's disposal.

Not rare, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 28

SHIP CHANCELLOR LIVINGSTON

Note the difference.

There are waves instead of stripple.

Rare, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 29

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SHIP

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, January 17, 1706, and died in Philadelphia, April 17, 1790.

The originality and force of Franklin's intellect appeared in youthful publications, one of which was "Poor Richard's Almanac," which became widely known for its wise proverbs.

It was entirely fitting that to his wisdom should have been confided mainly the negotiation of the memorial treaty by which the Independence of the United States of America received complete though sullen recognition on the part of England.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

FIGURE 30

BRIDGE, NIAGARA

Called "Maid of the Mist."

$3\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

FIGURE 31

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT

It commemorates the Battle of Bunker Hill, in which General Warren fell, sixty-eight years after the cornerstone was laid by General Lafayette in 1825 and unveiled by Daniel Webster.

Not rare, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

FIGURE 32

BUNKER HILL MONUMENT

Not rare, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.



25



28



26



29



27



30

FIGURE 33
LOG CABIN
Rare, 3 inches.

FIGURE 34
BUNKER HILL MONUMENT
Rare.

FIGURE 34-A
BUNKER HILL MONUMENT
No stars.

FIGURE 35
LOG CABIN

FIGURE 35-A
LOG CABIN
Acorn border.
Rare, 3½ inches.

FIGURE 36
FORT MEIGS AND TIPPECANOE

This was the campaign slogan of General Harrison's campaign. One of the most desperate battles ever fought with the Indians, in which General Harrison was highly honored by the Territory of Indiana and State of Kentucky at Fort Meigs.

Rare, 3½ inches.

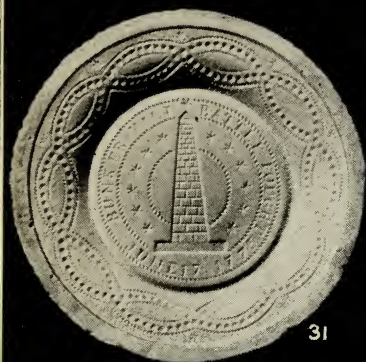
NOT ILLUSTRATED

- No. 37. Anchor.
- No. 38. Lyre.
- No. 39. Harp.
- No. 40. Valentine.
- No. 41. Butterfly.
- No. 42. Thirteen Hearts.
- No. 43. Thistle.

As soon as other historical cup plates are found there will be another supplement issued.

You will be able to secure same by writing to the author,

CHARLES BURNS,
912 WALNUT STREET,
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.



31



34



32



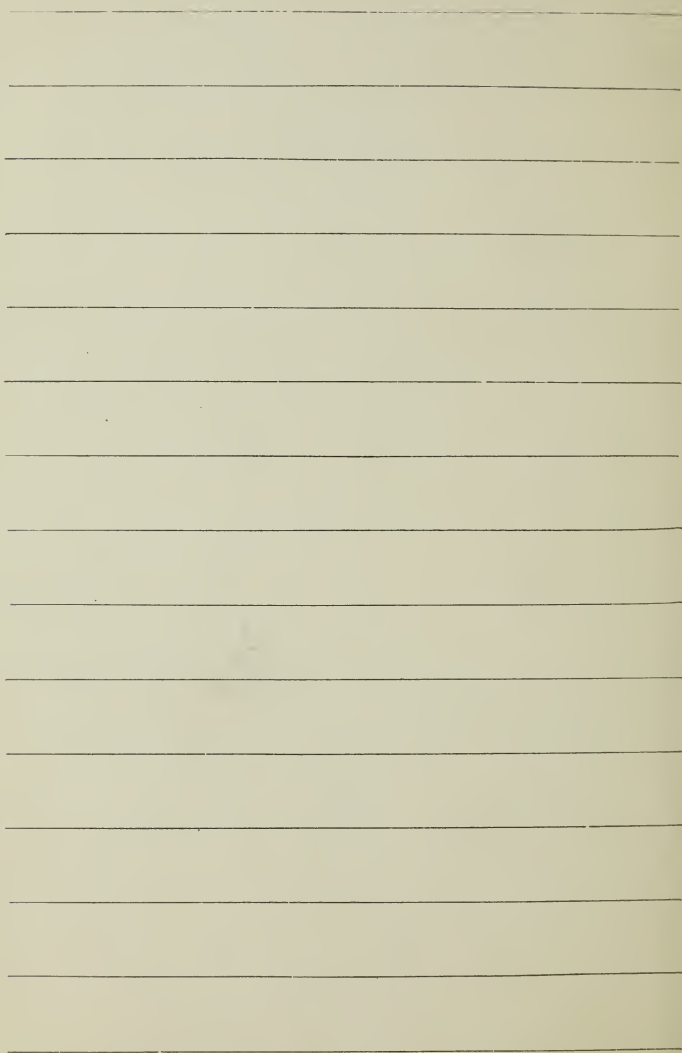
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33



36



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